HPW/bh
cc: Mr. Willens
Mr. Rankin

May 7, 1964

To: J. Lee Rankin

From: Howard P. Willens

The attached letter to the FBI was prepared jointly by [illegible], Griffin and Slawson after their recent discussion with [illegible]. We now recommend that the letter be sent in its present form. We agree that we should secure additional reports from the FBI on [illegible] criminal groups, but I believe that the scope of the [illegible] unreasonably broad.

In the first place, the letter comes close to requesting a complete report on the Communist Party and Socialist Workers Party in these cities during the period from 1961 through 1963 and in regard to [illegible] areas, including New York and Chicago, during the year 1963. I think that any further over-all reports or summaries on the activities of [illegible] organizations need be requested by this Commission. Our investigation has disclosed that Oswald had certain limited contacts with [illegible] these organizations which we have explored. I would recommend as to these two organizations that we secure reports only from Dallas and New Orleans during the year 1963.

As to the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and the other pro-Cuba-oriented groups, I think [illegible] a broader request may be [illegible] and not unduly burdensome. I think that we should request a report regarding each of these groups which would identify the group and discuss its activities during the year 1963. Further limitation of this inquiry to two major metropolitan areas and Dallas would probably be well received by the FBI and still elicit the information we need for our investigation.

This leaves for further consideration the scope of our request regarding the Minute Men and the [illegible] Society. We have no objection to a memorandum on the Minute Men from the Internal Security Division. In my mind, the only purpose of such a request would be to secure [illegible] from the information upon the basis of which we could make a [illegible]

to whether either Oswald or Ruby was involved with one of these organizations. If you agree to my estimate of the purpose of the request, I think we should request these records only for the year 1963 and only with regard to activities of these organizations in the State of Texas. Any correspondential activity involving either Oswald or Ruby with one of these groups would be revealed by this examination, if at all.

I have discussed this personally with Mr. Griffin and he is prepared to capitulate in almost every regard. I have not [illegible] with Mr. Hoover.